

# Current research status on alternative fuels for gas turbines in JAXA

January 9, 2015



NASA ACCESS II data workshop

Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center, Kissimmee FL

Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)  
Institute of Aeronautical Technology

Dr. Hitoshi Fujiwara

1. Current research status on alternative fuels in JAXA
  - A) Researches in collaboration with  
IFAR Alternative fuels working group
  - B) Research on the effect of the fuel change from  
petroleum diesel to a bio diesel fuel
2. Some research proposals for future collaboration in  
IFAR/AFWG

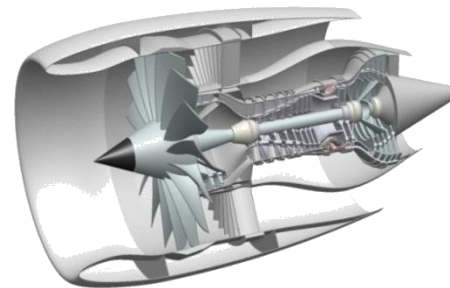
## 1. Current research on alternative fuels in JAXA

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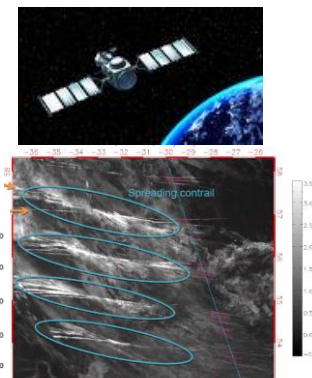
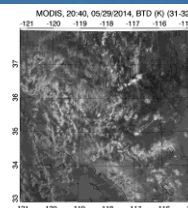
B) Research on the effect of the fuel change  
from petroleum diesel to a bio diesel fuel

2. Some research proposals for future  
collaboration in IFAR/AFWG

## A) Collaboration with IFAR AFWG



1. A small engine test in Japan with JP8 and the HEFA bio fuel used for ACCESS II
2. Satellite image analysis of contrails of ACCESS II flight test



## B) Effect of bio diesel fuels



1. 20MW gas turbine combustor rig test with diesel and 100% BDF



Figure 3. JAXA AP7 combustion test rig

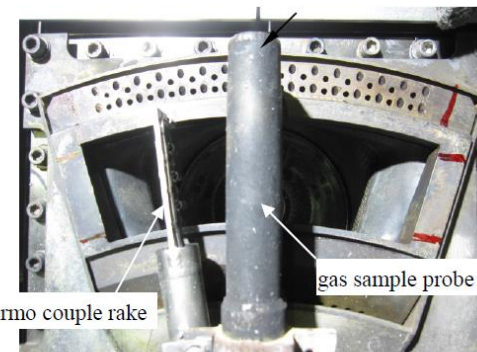
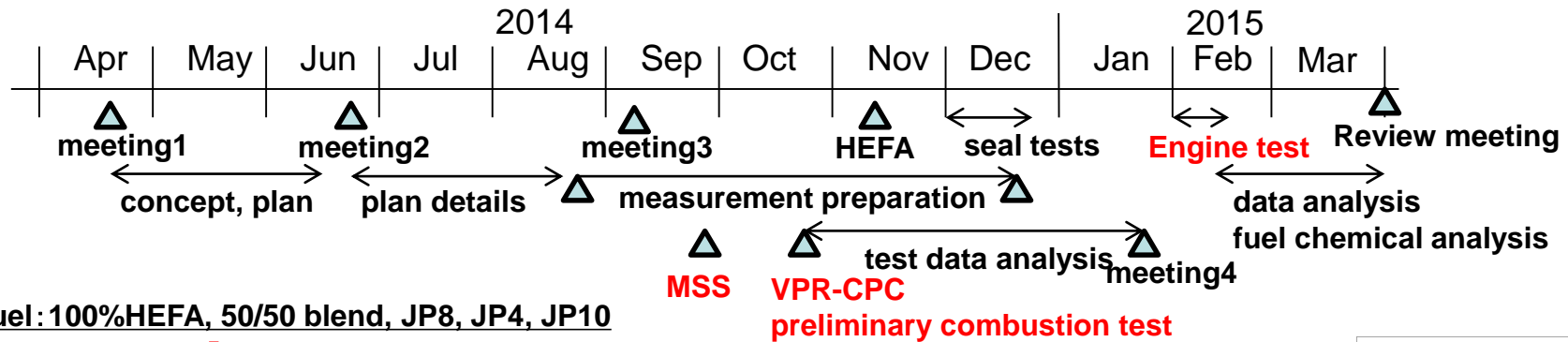


Figure 2. Downstream view of the can combustor test model

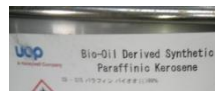
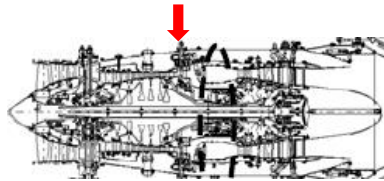
# Jet engine test with conventional jet fuels and HEFA



- With special support of NASA under IFAR scheme, 800 liters of HEFA bio fuel was imported from USA to Japan.
- JP8, JP4, JP10, 100%HEFA, JP8-HEFA 50:50 blend will be tested on next month.
- Detailed analysis on engine performance and exhaust gas with special focus on PM mass and number concentrations.



**fuel: 100%HEFA, 50/50 blend, JP8, JP4, JP10**



**Combustor rig test**  
**JAXA AP7**  
**T30:500~550K**  
**P30:500~650kPa**  
**PLR 2~4%**

PM mass concentration  
 $\text{mg/m}^3$

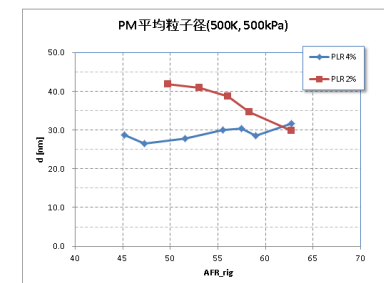
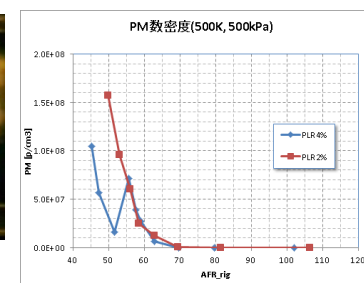
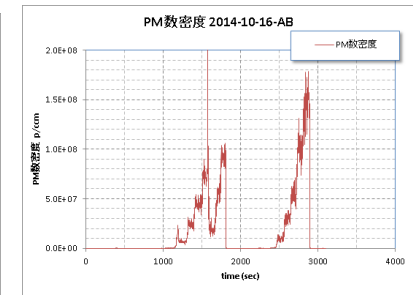
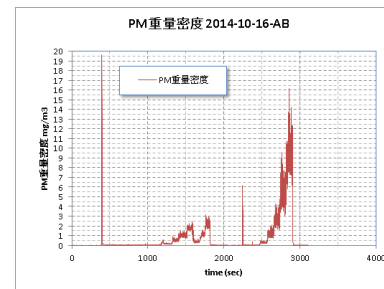
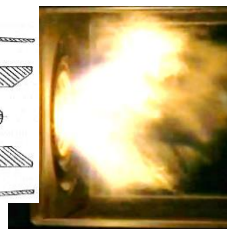
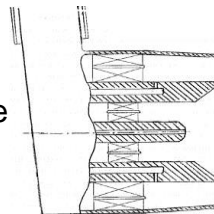
PM numbe  
 $\text{p/cm}^3$

NOx, CO, THC

MSS

VPR-CPC

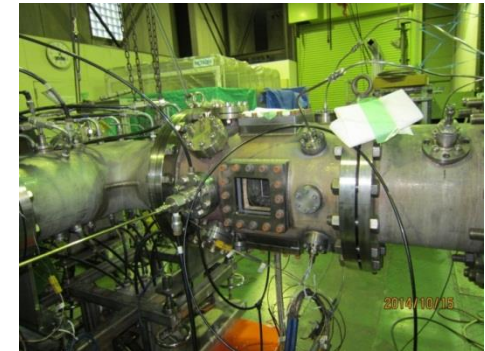
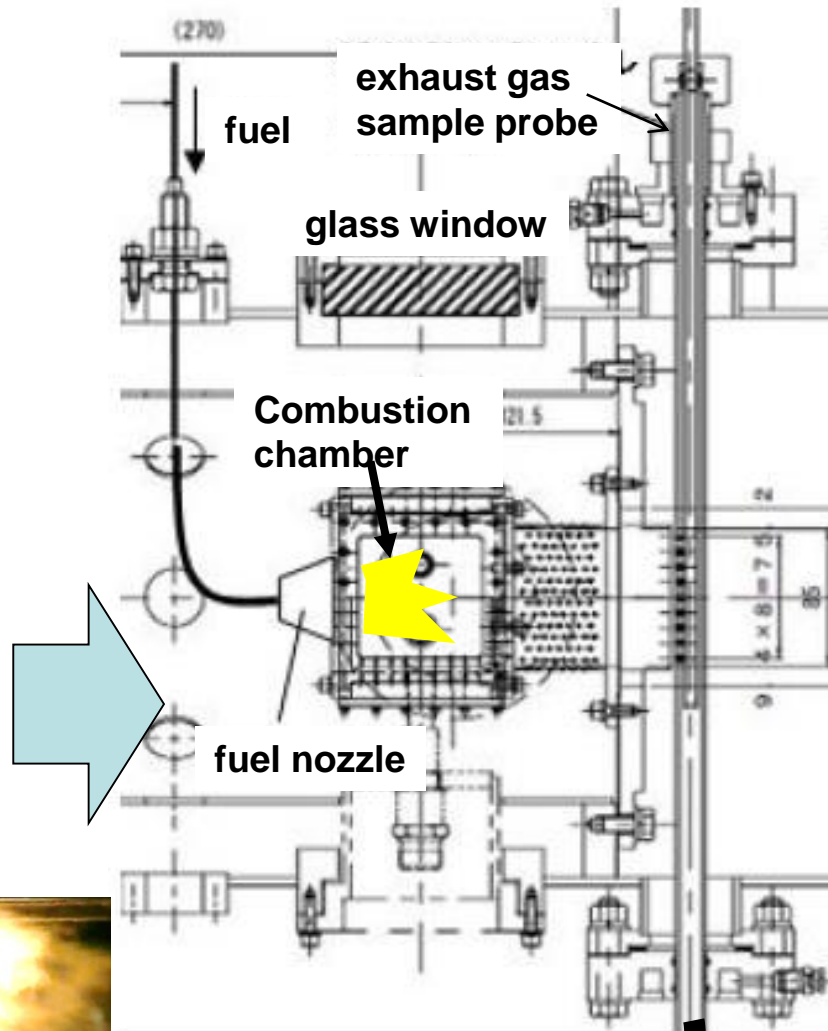
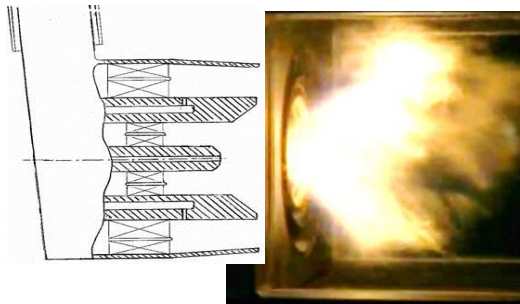
MEXA1



# Preliminary combustor rig test at JAXA for detailed PM measurements of a gas turbine combustor

**JAXA AP7 C Line  
combustion test rig**

**T30 = 500~550K  
P30 = 500~650kPa  
 $\Delta P = 2 \sim 4\%$**



open to  
atmosphere

AVL  
MSS  
PM mg/m<sup>3</sup>

MEXA  
NO<sub>x</sub>, CO, THC

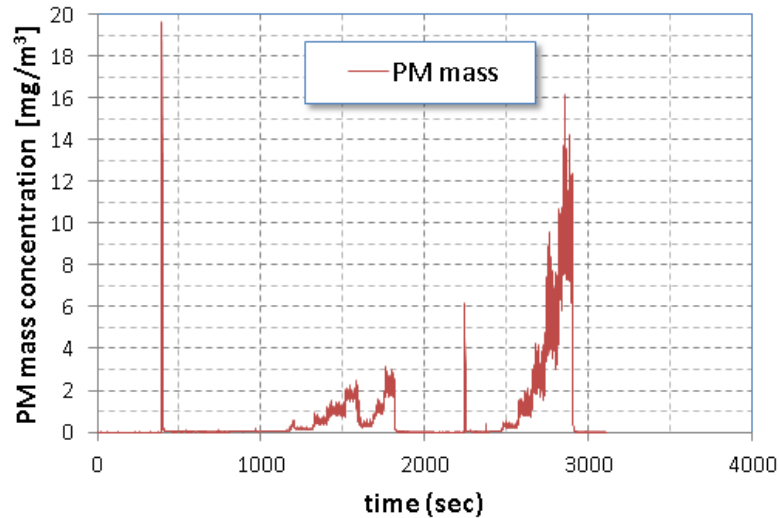
AVL  
CPC  
PM p/cm<sup>3</sup>

$\Phi 8$  SUS exhaust gas line

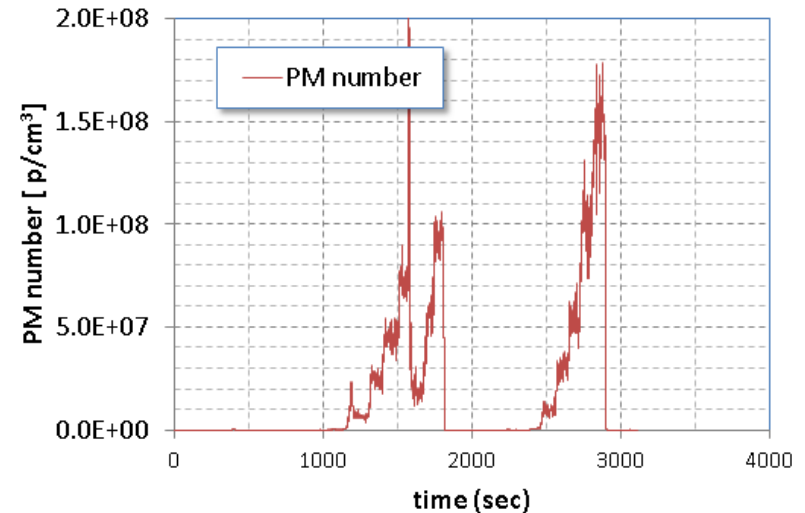


# Preliminary combustor rig test

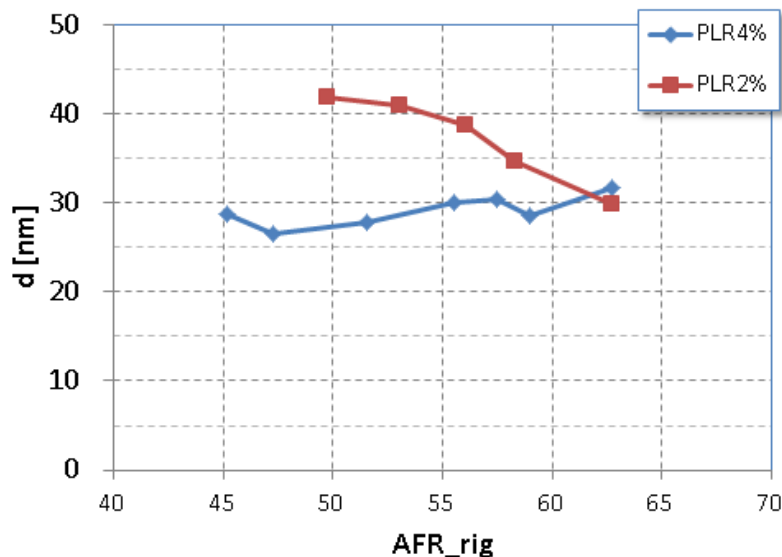
PM mass concentration 500K, 500kPa



PM number concentration 500K, 500kPa



PM mean diameter (500K, 500kPa)



✓ PM number concentration of gas turbine combustion turned out to be of the order of  $10^7$  to  $10^8$ .

✓ PM mean diameter turned out to be of the order of 30-50 nm.

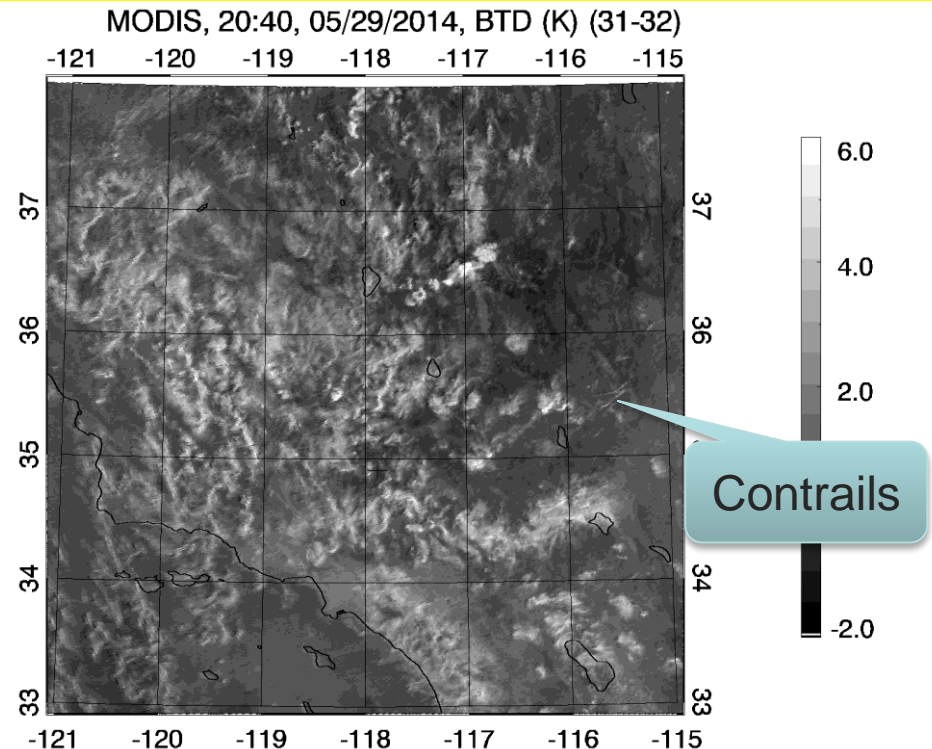
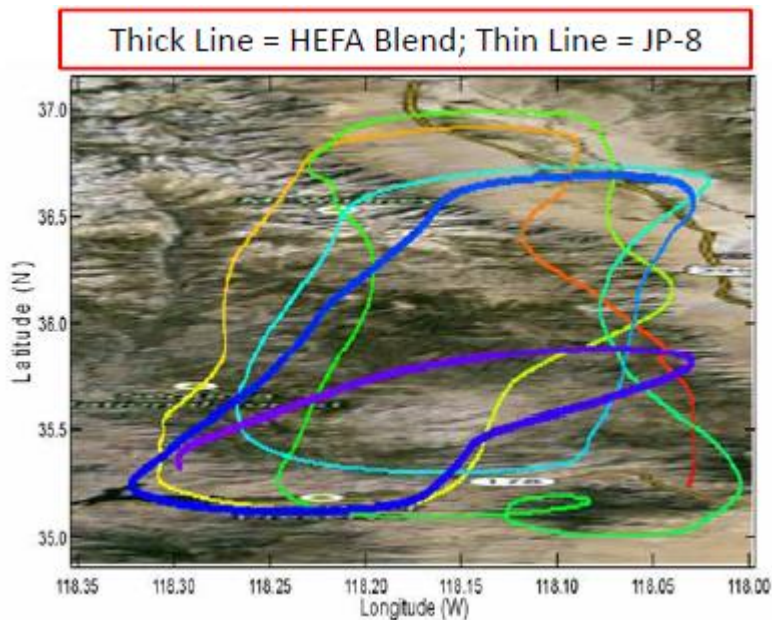
# Satellite image analysis of contrails of ACCESS II

- Analysis on the Aqua/Terra satellite MODIS IR channel images to capture ACCESS II contrails and to calculate optical thickness, temperature, particle effective size based on a physical model.  
(cooperation with Prof H Iwabuchi at Tohoku University)



5/29, IR image, AQUA MODIS camera,  
UTC 20:40, brightness temp difference between No.31 and No.32

Flight pass near Edward Air Base (USA)





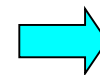
The effect of the fuel change from petroleum diesel to bio diesel fuel on the emission of a 20MW gas turbine combustor



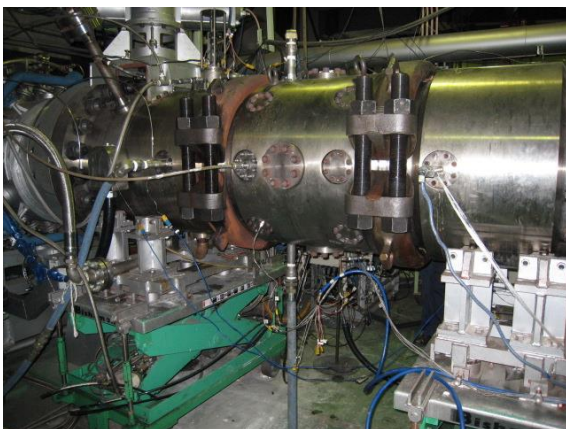
wasted cooking oil



refined with Alkaline catalyst



Bio Diesel Fuel (BDF)

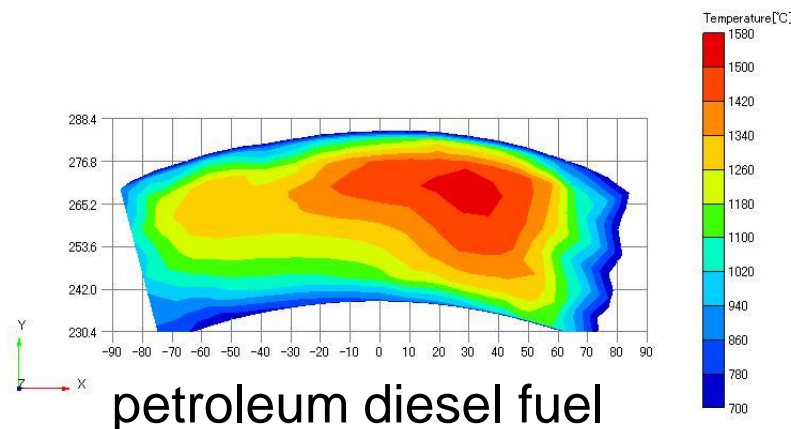
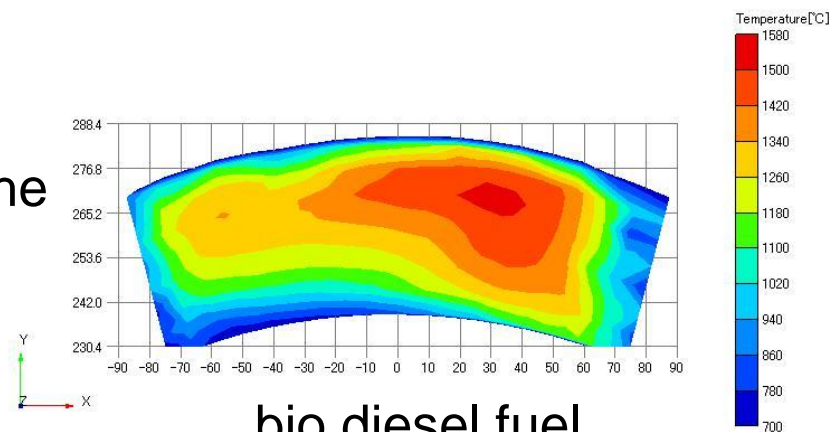


Inlet air : 1220kPa, 750K  
Max outlet temp : 1800K

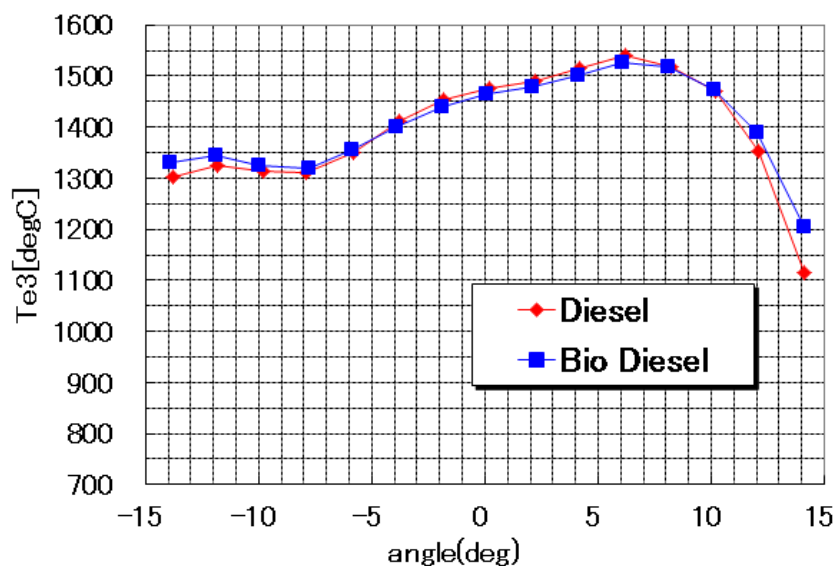
Fuel flow was carefully controlled so that the exit temp was nearly equal to each other to evaluate exhaust gas at the same operating condition of the GT.

It turned out that around 10% more fuel is needed for BDF compared with diesel (mass base) for the same output of the gas turbine because of the lower heat release of BDF per unit mass

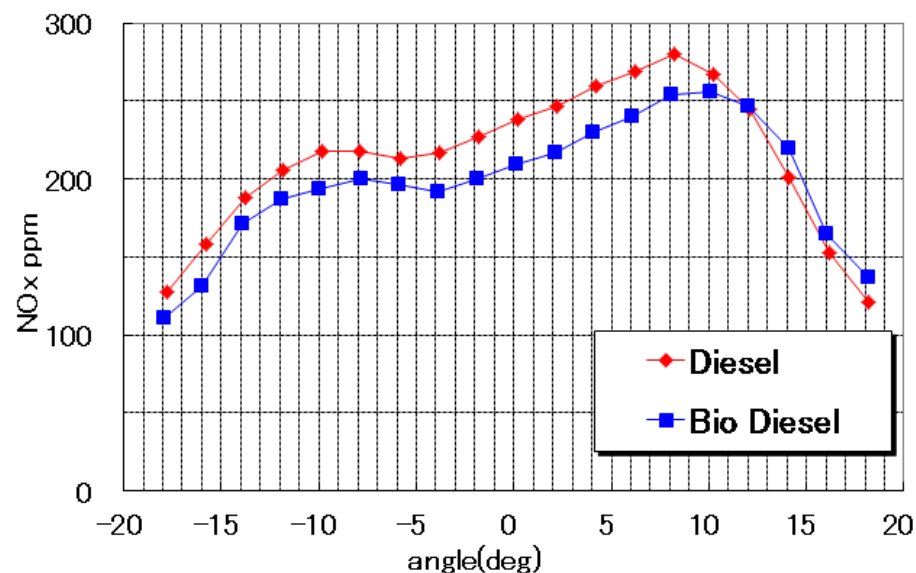
exit temperature distribution



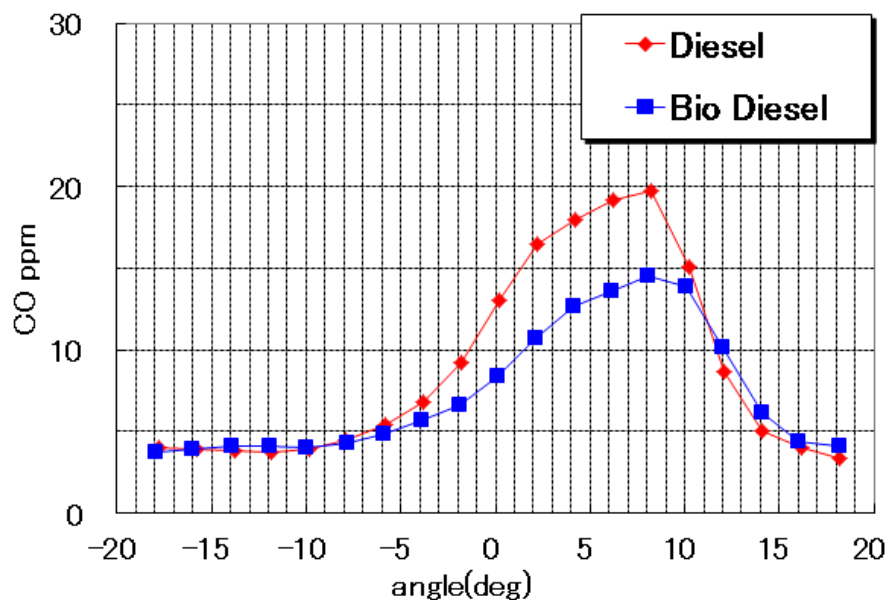
1220kPa, 750K Te3



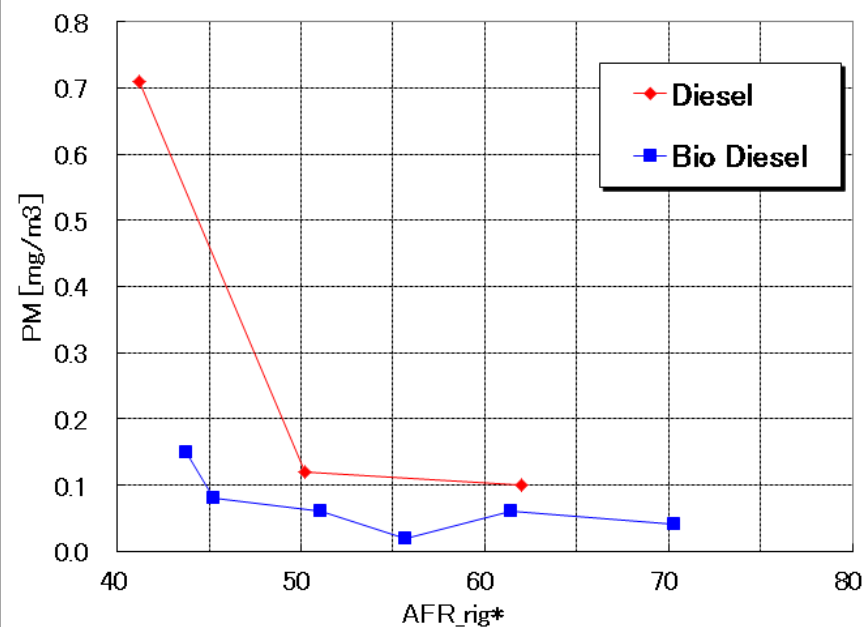
1220kPa, 750K NOx ppm



1220kPa, 750K CO ppm

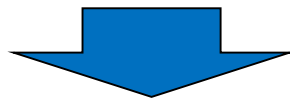


1220kPa, 750K PM



Combustion test of BDF and diesel showed that:

- Around 10% additional fuel needed for BDF compared with diesel at same operating condition
- Exit temperature distributions are nearly the same implying that the effect of the fuel change on turbine and overall performance is considered to be small.
- NO<sub>x</sub>, CO emission of BDF nearly equal or smaller
- PM emission of BDF smaller.



Ignition, seal, degradation of performance with long time use, ... should be considered,

but BDF turned out to be a promising alternative of diesel for gas turbines



## 1. Current research on alternative fuels in JAXA

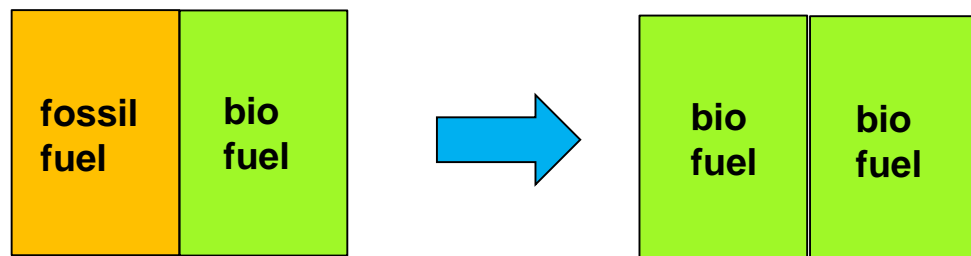
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## 2. Some research proposals for future collaboration in IFAR/AFWG

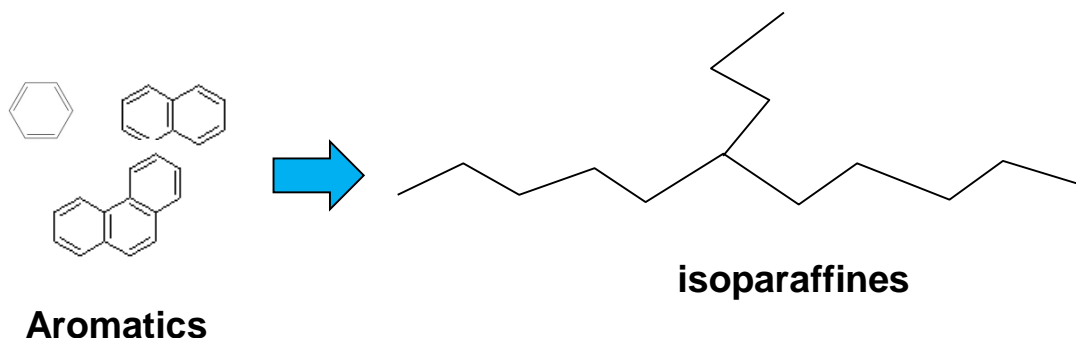
# Future plan / proposals for cooperative activities IFAR AFWG

1. Activities toward the possibility for 100% bio fuel commercial flight  
(research on the ideal chemical component of commercial bio fuel)



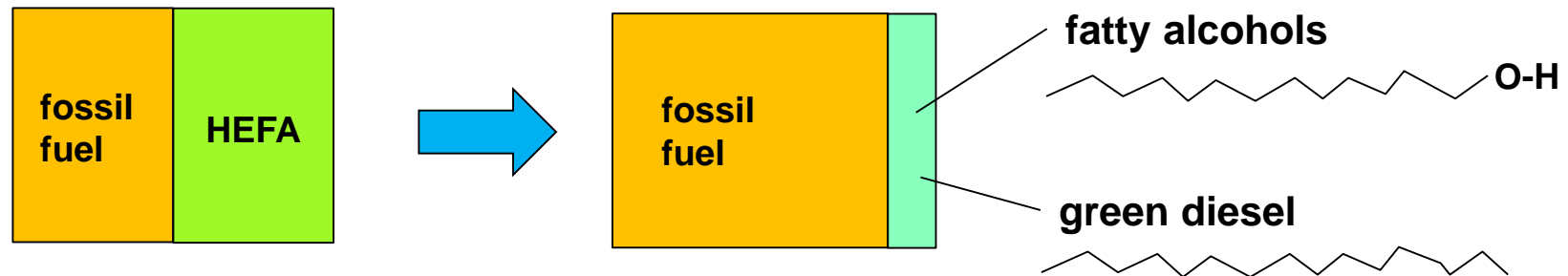
What limits the percentage of bio fuel?

- ✓ fuel seal issues, density, freezing point, ...
- ✓ Ensuing a lowest percentage of aromatics may solve the above issues, but still causes PM emission.



# Future plan / proposals for cooperative activities IFAR AFWG

2. Activities toward the possibility for containing some fuel with different chemical (research on broaden the source of aviation jet fuel)

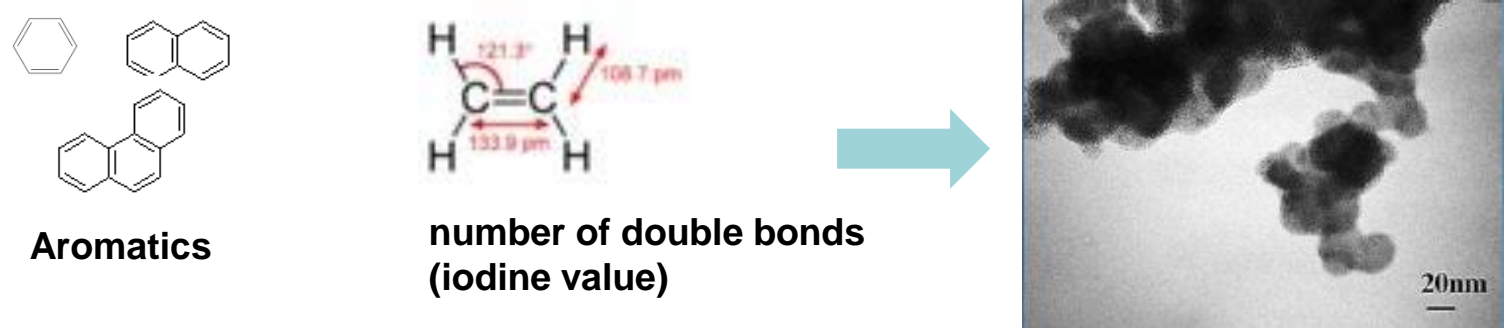


- ✓ Containing some small amount of alcohols might have favorable effect on emissions.
- ✓ Promoting the increase in the use of bio-fuel in aviation through broadening the range of aviation fuel specification, though additional proactive engine endurance tests might be needed to eliminate failures and to assure the airworthiness.

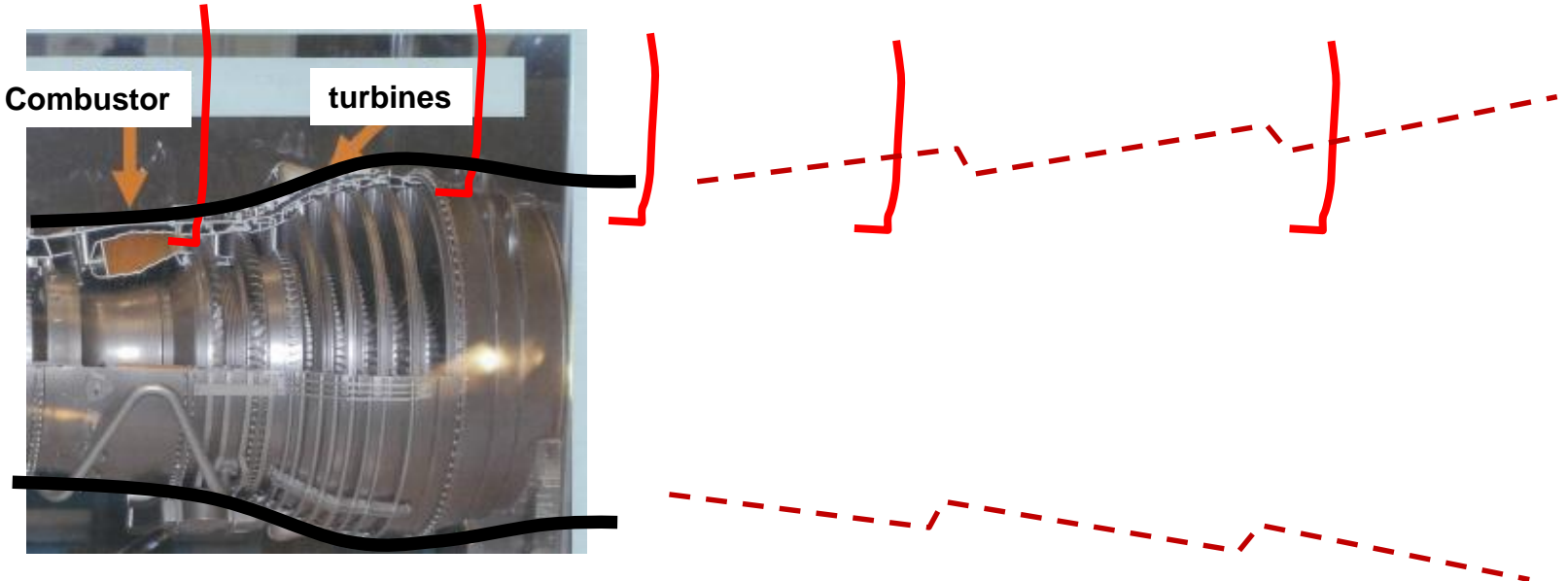
3. Sharing any failures/incidents related to the use of alternative fuel obtained in the world.
4. leading innovation to increase the production of aviation alternative fuel.

# Future plan / proposals for cooperative activities IFAR AFWG

## 5. Basic research on the mechanism of PM reduction on the use of alternative fuels



6. Measurement of PM mass/number concentration at each station of a jet engine, such as exit of combustor, HP/LP turbines, nozzles, outside atmosphere to investigate the PM diversion and bonding during its passing through these components. Simulation/modeling are also important.



1. Current research status on alternative fuels in JAXA
  - A) Collaboration with IFAR AFWG
    - Engine test in Japan with JP8 and the HEFA bio fuel used for ACCESS II in February
    - Satellite image analysis of ACCESS II contrails under preparation
  - B) Research on the effect of the fuel change from petroleum diesel to a bio diesel fuel
    - Results showing BDF as one of promising alternative of petroleum diesel for gas turbines
2. Several ideas of future international collaboration for improving alternative fuels performance